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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, February 7, 2003, at 10:00 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2003

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, who never sends tragedies or trouble but is with us in the midst of nerve-stretching times to give us courage, we fall on the knees of our hearts seeking the peace and hope only You can provide. When there is nowhere else to turn it's time to return to You. With the untimely death of the heroic astronauts, we are reminded of the shortness of our lives and the length of eternity.

Yesterday we listened to Secretary of State Colin Powell and realized again that we face a treacherous enemy with formidable, destructive power. For the sake of the safety of humankind and the world, grant the President, his advisors, and this Senate Your strategy and strength for the crucial decisions confronting them.

And now for the work of this day, keep the Senators and all of us who work with and for them mindful that You are Sovereign of this land, and that we are accountable to You for all that is said and done. May the bond of patriotism that binds us together always be stronger than any issue that threatens to divide us. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TED STEVENS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I have some information for Senators. The Senate will resume debate on the nomination of Miguel Estrada this morning. We had a productive debate on the Estrada nomination on yesterday afternoon, and it is the majority leader's objective to arrive at an agreement with the other side of the aisle regarding the consideration and vote on the nomination in the near future.

As previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes today. It is anticipated that the Senate will adjourn around noon. Therefore, Senators who wish to speak on the Estrada nomination are encouraged to make arrangements to do so earlier in the day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MIGUEL A. ESTRADA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Under the previous order, the Senate will return to executive session to resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 21, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Miguel A. Estrada, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, it is ironic that one of the arguments against Miguel Estrada, the President's nominee for the D.C. Circuit Court, center around prior judicial experience. This argument is nothing but hollow political rhetoric aimed at obstructing the Senate's constitutional duty to confirm judges. It is also a double standard of the highest order. To illustrate this point, I bring a Colorado legend to the attention of my colleagues. Byron "Whizzer" White may have passed away almost a year ago, but the Centennial State will forever feel his commanding presence. Mr. White was born in Fort Collins, CO, not far from where I live and where my family lives, and was raised in nearby Wellington. He went on to become his high school's valedictorian, All-American football star, college valedictorian, Rhodes

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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